

Remarks

The following remarks make reference to the Office Action using the same section numbers or headings.

3. Claim 17 has been amended to no longer refer to the “phase shifter”. Consequently, amendment of the drawings with respect to this issue is not required.

4. Figure 1 has been amended to include the reference numeral “90”. A suitable replacement sheet 1 of the drawings is submitted herewith.

5. The description has been amended at page 10 to insert at an appropriate place the numeral “402” referred to in figure 4. Consequently, amendment of the drawings with respect to this issue is not required.

6. Each of figures 4 and 7 has been amended to take account of the various issues identified in this section of the Office Action. However, it should be noted that figures 5 and 6, in contrast to figures 4 and 7, are not flow charts and so there is no requirement to insert arrow flows. Also, in figure 4, block 402, the term “signal” referred to by the Examiner is actually “symbol”. Further, the applicant has taken the opportunity to amend block 400 of figure 4 to replace the term “pre-determined” with “known” to render this figure consistent with the claims. Suitable replacement sheets 4 and 7 of the drawings are submitted herewith.

Specification Various sections of the description part of the specification have been amended to take account of the issues raised in this section of the Office Action.

In the Drawings

Sheets 1, 4 and 7 of the drawings respectively depicting figures 1, 4 and 7 are replaced by new sheets 1, 4 and 7 of drawings. Figures 1, 4 and 7 have each been amended.

An explanation of the amendments is provided in the Remarks section of this response.

7. Applicant recognizes the Examiner has renumbered the claims as 1-25 by Examiner's amendment. Such renumbering has been adopted in this response. The Examiner will note that the claims have been renumbered in the manner suggested.

Claims 3, 11, 12, 17 and 22 have each been amended in light of the clarity issues identified in this section of the Office Action. It is submitted that the amendments made properly address the clarity objections. It should be noted that claims 13 to 16, 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Claims 23-25 are withdrawn.

9. As previously indicated, claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled.

11. The present invention comprises an enhanced method of using initialisation messages to identify connection parameters for use in transmitting and receiving subsequent user data in a wireline multi-carrier communication system. The method is an improvement of known such methods as discussed in the opening pages of the description of the present application. As such, the transmitter employed in the present invention has a construction which will be known to a skilled addressee albeit adapted to implement the enhanced method. Consequently, the means for identifying the available carrier groups and the means for transmitting on such available carrier groups a replicate of a symbol transmitted on another carrier group are known to a skilled addressee and need not be described in detail in the present application. What, of course, is not known or obvious to the skilled addressee is the improved method of the invention of transmitting a replicate of a transmitted symbol on each of at least half of all available carrier groups rather than transmitting a single replicate on one other available carrier group. It will also be noted that all of the claims now refer to a carrier group of "known" size. In view of the discussion of known methods in the opening pages of the specification, a skilled addressee will clearly understand what is meant by this term. Thus, the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is met.

13. Claims 1 to 10, 17 and 20 to 22 have each been amended in light of the indefiniteness issues identified in this section of the Office Action. It is submitted that the amendments made properly address the indefiniteness objections. As already indicated, claims 13 to 16 have been cancelled.

15. Whilst the transmitter disclosed in Braun (US4809296) may comprise a structure similar to that of the present invention as defined by claim 11, it is clear that the transmitter of Braun is such that the replicator is not arranged to output a replicate of each of the symbols on each of the available carrier groups. Braun is directed to a transmitter arranged to transmit data in the form of symbols where the same data is transmitted several times at different times using different carrier frequencies. Braun addresses the problem of transmitting data over an unconventional wireline medium comprising a powerline of a power supply system. Braun does not disclose using all of the available carrier groups. Consequently, claim 11 is not anticipated by the disclosure of Braun not rendered obvious thereby given the different technical problem being addressed by the present invention compared to Braun.

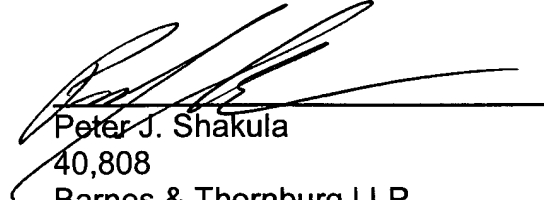
16. Hethuin (US6625174) relates to a method of transmitting data packets using groups of symbols. There is nothing in the disclosure of this reference that teaches or suggests the steps of the methods of the present invention defined by claim 1. Hethuin is equally irrelevant to other independent claims of the present application.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner has not established that each of the claims limitations of the independent claims of the present application are taught or suggested by any of the prior art references of record and consequently, the rejections of such claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a or e) cannot be sustained. Also, the applicant has demonstrated that the enablement requirement is met and addressed all clarity and

indefiniteness objections thus placing the claims of this application in order for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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